

3-7-1858

Letter from Anna Clemson to Floride Clemson concerning fashion, 1858 March 7

Anna Marie Calhoun Clemson

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recovered her looks, appetite & gaiety, but is a little worried at being confined so long to the house by this long cold spell. You know how she likes to be out of doors.

Your grandmother & uncle I have not yet made their appearance, nor have I heard from them directly, tho' I had a letter from Kate last week, in which she says not a word about mother's coming on, by which I suppose she has not mentioned it to them, but is waiting for Pat's arrival to do so.

Tomorrow your father is invited to dine at Sir Gore Ouseley's & strangely enough, to an evening party at Mr. Leaton's, so he goes in, stays all night & attends both. Is that not dissipated? I was not invited to either place. The dinner party is, I suppose, entirely for gentlemen, & the party I have never visited since I have been here. Your cousin Tom has been here since Thursday evening, & left this morning. He went over to see the balcony yesterday. He always pays them

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The Home Mar. 7th 1858

A
C626

My dearest daughter, I must begin by telling you, I did not blot this sheet, but laid it, a fair page, on the blotting paper, where your father had just been writing, & laid down his pen I suppose. I am glad you were pleased with the things I sent you - I thought they might be useful, but you so often say the things I give or send on are old fashioned, or "too old" for you, that I was not certain. By the way, you say you have no pocket handkerchief worked with black silk, but one with black cotton. Now I never had one worked with black cotton, so that must be the one I refer to (scallops, with thick dots, & my name in the corner, worked in the same way) & as you no longer need, it send it to me in the bundle & if you desire, I will replace it by another, white one but if you have enough, you had better let

me keep the rest for you till you
come home. I had almost sent
you a fan, but thought you would
only break it. If you want one,
told me whether I must send
you the one in my portrait, or
that your uncle Willie gave you.
You seem to be having a nice
time & doing a good deal this term.
I hope you will profit by it all &
not let it turn your mind from your
studies.

I was much
gratified at receiving Katie's
letter & will answer it very shortly.
Tell her with my love.

As I wrote you, we had appointed
Mrs Calvert, & Ella, came on Wed-
nesday morning for me, & we went
to Mrs Dundas, & to Washington,
& returned here to dinner. We
had a pleasant time, but I
was almost talked to death, &
came home with a sore throat
& head ache, I think from all the
exertions of talking & hearing.
I forgot to tell you I had gone
into Washington on Tuesday with
my father - Thursday morn

ing Mrs Calvert wrote me about
breakfast time, that Mr Calvert
had just returned from Baltimore
with six of the Trustees of the
Agricultural College, & wished us
to come & dine with them. I wrote
that Mr C. would go, but it was
too cold for me to venture in our
open carriage, with my sore throat,
(which by the way is entirely well now).
Your father accordingly went on
horse back, when about two o'clock,
what should I see but Mr Calvert's
carriage driving up for me. Of course
I could not refuse to go, so
on my clothes, & got there just as
they sat down to dinner. We had
a very pleasant day, & they sent
me home in the evening. Are
they not kind neighbours? Mr
Calvert still looks badly, & has
no appetite. He looks fine as you
saw in the last year. I urged
him to take care of himself. Mr
Norris is the same as ever -
they always inquire affectionately
after you, & send their love -
We are all well again, except
your father & I and, who have
had colds. Kind has quite

Your uncle Baker, & bathorn both wrote me, that bathorn had been confined to the house by a bad cold. I hope he is well in this. I meant to have written bathorn this week, but when I came out this morning, your father had already written him, so I will not till next week. —

It is so cold to day I can hardly write, which must excuse this scratch, which I only hope you can make out, for my fingers will hardly guide the pen.

I am busy mending your father's shirts, which he sadly needs. My eye is no longer inflamed, tho' both are yet a little weaker than usual, but tho' I think will soon wear off by bathing them in cold water. Be careful of your self, & don't take cold this severe weather. — Give my love to your aunt B., & tell her I am truly glad to hear she is recovering. When you see your aunt Worth, give her my love, & say I will shortly answer her kind letter. Your father & I have had a long & pleasant conversation with Babette & Miss Dant (who is a very nice girl) & your own daughter &

a visit, & I thank him about Ella. By the way, Ella improves upon acquaintance. She is becoming very social, & talkative with me, & seems to like to come & see me. — ^{Mar 7, 1858} A.C626

Yesterday, just as Tom & I were busy cutting down the panting windows, to make a door into the school room, & I was as dirty as possible, Gov. Hammond (our new South Carolina Senator) drove up with his wife & daughter. I used to know them very well, & boarded with them one winter in Washington when he was a member of Congress. I am very fond of her, she is an amiable & excellent lady. Their daughter is very pretty, but like a statue. She is seventeen, & born June 1. I knew them, which made me feel very old, I can tell you. They made quite a long visit, & were very social, but could not get over my being so fat. — And now, daughter, I must hold you for a great piece of correspondence. Your aunt Barton says in her account to your father,

that when you were coming home
Christmas, you said you had not
money enough, & she told you to go
to the drawer & take \$5, & when
she came to look you had taken
by mistake a \$20 piece. Now
how in the first place could you
make such a mistake? & next
what did you do with the money?
for not two days after you came
home, (as Babetta says she perfectly
remembers) I happened to need
some change, not more than
two dollars, & asked you if you
had it, when you said you did
not have so much, & brought
your purse, which did not contain
that sum - I said did you not
bring any money? - no said
you, Calhoun paid for us, & I
knew I could get it at home -
Now what had you done with
the \$20? I can account in the
drop you brought me, &c, for about
\$3 & no more. I hope you did
not lose it but how came you
never to say to me that you
had taken the twenty by mistake?

you are certainly not so careless
as to have changed it as a \$5.
You must be more careful in
future, but I am truly sorry
your aunt B. mentioned it to
your father, as it has worried
& made him very angry. She
should have charged him the
\$5 you should have taken, &
made you pay the other \$15,
out of your own money, as you
should have borne the loss. I think
she would now, even for the sake of
peace, write him ^{that} as he is worried
about it, to pay her the \$5, & I
will send on the \$15 as soon as I
can get good notes, or paper. I
would send it now, but don't
like to send gold, by mail. I
do this, because I think you should
lose it, & because I regret to
see him so angry about it, & am
tired of hearing it talked about.
So get your aunt to settle it
this way, & let us hear no more
about it, but remember us
more with carelessness in future,
or I shan't help you out again.